

Butler County Conservation District Tree Seedling Give Away

Submitted by: Shanna A. Drake

On Friday, April 3, 2015, the Butler County Conservation District hosted their annual tree seedling give away. Despite the threat of rain, a number of people turned out to get seedlings which had been picked up earlier in the week at the John P. Rhody Nursery in Gilbertsville. The event was held just outside of the USDA Service Center which houses the Butler County Conservation District office. The building is located at 216 W. Ohio Street in Morgantown. The event was advertised to begin at 9:30 am; however, some arrived early to get their free tree seedlings.

Approximately 1,300 tree seedlings were given away during the day. Seedlings available were Pecan, Black walnut, Redbud, Silky dogwood, Northern red oak, and White pine. Pecan, Redbud and Silky dogwood seemed to be the most desirable tree seedlings to be given away during the day. The most popular tree given away seems to vary from year to year. There is also a variation of some seedlings given away each year depending on availability at the nursery. A few trees remained at the end of the day and were left outdoors for those who might want to come pick them up.

Amanda Arnold, employee of the Butler County Conservation District stated, "I feel that our giveaway brings out the best in our community! There are so many people who are genuinely enthusiastic about receiving the trees and about conservation. Not only is it a great way to help out those who may not be able to purchase tree seedlings of their own, but it's also a great way to introduce ourselves and the district to those who may not know who we are and what we do."